

## FFWPU USA Blog: Why Do We Do Bad Things?

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What is fallen nature? To put it simply, fallen nature is a term used in the Divine Principle, the core teachings of the Unificationist faith, to describe the habits and tendencies to commit wrongdoings. Sometimes we feel it is our inborn nature to hurt people, to lie, to cheat, to steal, to spread gossip. The Divine Principle states that God did not create human beings with fallen nature. It comes from the actions of our first ancestors when they turned away from God and His guidance. He created us with an [Original Mind that is good](#). Awareness of even small habits that contribute to our fallen nature is the first step in stopping ourselves from committing them.

"Whenever [evil] desires are sated, we feel unrest in our conscience and agony in our heart."  
- Divine Principle (p. 1)

### Jealousy, the Thief of Joy

"Do not overrate what you have received, nor envy others. He who envies others does not obtain peace of mind" is what Siddhartha Gautama, most commonly referred to as the Buddha, says about jealousy. Let's face it. Deep inside, we already know comparing ourselves and being envious only brings us misery, yet we all struggle not to compare our lives to others. Envy does nothing but imprison us in our thoughts and doubts. When we begin to obsess over what others have and compare it with what we don't have, it begins the cycle of acting against our original mind. The core teachings of the Divine Principle call these the four characteristics of fallen nature.

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### Failure to See From God's Perspective

This envy is the first characteristic of fallen nature described in the Divine Principle as the "failure to see from God's perspective." The Divine Principle says, "The Archangel's [Lucifer] fall was his failure to love Adam with the same heart and perspective as God; instead he felt jealous of Adam. This [led him to tempt Eve](#)." (Moon 73) The Archangel, being in the position to guide Adam and Eve, was jealous of their position to inherit everything God created as God's beloved children. We may not be able to fully comprehend something that happened so long ago at the beginning of human history. However, it is undeniable that we may have all experienced resentment towards someone who undeservingly received things we desire in life.

There is an old Korean folk story about jealousy between two brothers. The older brother, Nolbu, was the king of his family and will one day inherit the family fortune. The younger brother, Hungbu, by contrast, was humble, quiet, and shy. He did everything in the shadow of his elder brother. One day, Hungbu finds an injured sparrow and secretly nurses it back to health. The sparrow returns his kindness by giving him seeds. The seeds then grew gourds filled with gold coins which grew the family fortune making Hungbu the wealthiest man in town. Seeing that Hungbu was getting so much recognition and heavenly fortune, the jealous elder brother tries to do the same thing by breaking the legs of a healthy sparrow and nursing it back to health. Punishing Nolbu for this heinous crime, the sparrow returns the act by giving Nolbu seeds filled with goblins.

In this story, The elder brother blinded with jealousy could not see that his younger brother had only pure intentions to nurse the sparrow and thus was rewarded. He only grew the family fortune and their parents. Perhaps you can relate to Nolbu when you try so hard to be someone you are not by desperately clinging

to looks, position, and materialism. Acting on jealousy blinds us to the blessings we may already have.

### **Leaving Your Proper Position**

The second characteristic of fallen nature is "leaving your proper position." It's not about stealing someone's place in line at the grocery store. More than leaving any physical position, the Divine Principle describes it as leaving your place of responsibility. Not thinking of who or what it may hurt to "step beyond the bounds of what is right and overreach themselves" is fallen nature (Moon 73).

"People must be awakened from their ignorance and must preserve the environment well. We must save the dying land and oceans... We should feel true ownership just as God does and become one in all respects, cooperating with one another to fulfill this work."  
- Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, 2024

A modern example is today's environmental crisis. For decades, human beings have been contributing irresponsibly to deforestation, fossil fuel production, weak policies, and pollution. We have left the position to take care of Mother Nature long ago, and we wait around until an extraordinary and miraculous invention can save it.

Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, also known as the [Mother of Peace](#), in her recent messages urges, "People must be awakened from their ignorance and must preserve the environment well. We must save the dying land and oceans... We should feel true ownership just as God does and become one in all respects, cooperating with one another to fulfill this work." (Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, 2024). Taking responsibility sometimes feels like a big burden on our shoulders and we desperately seek someone else to blame. However, it is noticing small moments like these where we can choose to think otherwise that God blessed humanity with the biggest gift of taking care of this beautiful world.

### **Reversal of Dominion**

Dominion sounds like a rather harsh word synonymous with "dictate" or "command." However, in the Divine Principle the word "dominion" is referred to as the responsibility of human beings to take care of God's creation. Think of it more as stewardship. [God created everything in nature for human beings](#) and to one day entrust us with its care.

The reversal of dominion, the third characteristic of fallen nature, can be seen in the bible when the Archangel tricks Adam and Eve into obeying his directions instead of God. This can be compared to a usurper forcibly taking over a country, land, or people. We can even see this in the microcosms of our society. You may have experienced viewing a particular leader as incapable; maybe a teacher, guide, or boss. Regardless of someone's capabilities, does that give us the right to act as an usurper as well?

### **Wrongdoing Loves Company**

The last characteristic of fallen nature is "multiplying evil." Imagine little evil minions, but not the cute kind. We have all at one point taken it upon ourselves to share the burden of a mistake with the people around us. When you do something wrong, it feels better to have someone do it with you. Why? Because fallen nature taught us that we don't like to shoulder the blame alone. The bully at school has people around him because he feels more powerful in a group. Even gossiping is a form of fallen nature. We spread seemingly light jokes, dirt, lies, and private information about others in the hopes that we feel more connected to the people around us or better about ourselves by comparison. However, we are unknowingly sharing little evil minions with our friends.

"Everything that irritates us about others can lead us to an understanding of ourselves."  
- Carl Jung

### **See From God's Perspective**

Fallen nature is not always obvious. It can be in the smallest, everyday interactions that seem innocent. This is not to say we should give up. On the contrary, we should be even more aware of the things we say, do, and think. As philosopher Carl Jung said, "Everything that irritates us about others can lead us to an understanding of ourselves." One of the greatest steps we can take is to be aware of our seemingly innocuous acts that could be reinforcing our fallen nature, and to try to act from God's perspective rather than our own.

## An Original Mind at Work



Everyone has had a bad day at work. First, you fumble your way through your tedious morning routine. You wish you hadn't stayed up so late watching that disappointing movie, but here you are, tired and irritable. The early morning commute traffic does nothing to improve your mood. Then you find yourself facing yet another grueling day at your job. Amid your burning frustration and foul mood, do you ever wonder, "Is there any point in trying to be kind or decent today at all? Why don't I just embrace the negativity?"

### **Our Original Mind is Good**

In times like these, each one of us has to remember that we, like all people, are more than our meanest instincts. We are created to be full of the potential to do good as well as the desire to follow through with it. This potential and desire is what Unificationism refers to as our Original Mind. When we study the book of Genesis in the Bible, we can see clearly how humanity fell into temptation and sin, and history has shown us a prolonged continuation of that sad state of affairs. And yet, as far as we may have fallen from God's ideal for us, we cannot totally lose our connection to the true, good nature that our Creator has endowed us with. As the [Principle of Creation](#) explains it, "the original mind always inclines toward goodness, even in an evil person. However, unless a [person] leads a good life, the [Original Mind] cannot provide anything for the betterment of the physical [person]."

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— The Divine Principle



As difficult as it often can be, we have to become people that always strive in our lives to follow our Original Mind. But how can we do that? Making an effort to practice it in the mundane and ever present aspects of our day to day routines. What better place to start than at work? With all the stresses and temptations to give in to negativity, choosing to follow your Original Mind, while challenging, can be extremely rewarding.

### **Practice at Work**

Take that blue Monday morning we started off with. When you enter the breakroom for your first cup of coffee, gathered around the counter are your equally tired and cranky co-workers, many of them eager to engage you in a group whining and complaining session. It's what everybody does, and it's what you often catch yourself doing. But if we turn to the Bible, we are told, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:2)

The Bible says we should avoid following the ways of the world because they are governed by selfish desire and negativity. In order to orient our minds towards God and goodness, we need to try our best to act out of positivity, love, and kindness. That means when others complain, we should not. When others give up and put in minimal work, we should continue to give our best efforts. Our tendency is to shy away from hardship and pain, but if we listen to our Original Mind, it will tell us that [hardship is just an opportunity for growth](#).

"A newborn baby cannot carry out the work of God's providence. Heaven waits until the baby grows up, is able to judge things for him- or herself, understands God's will, makes his or her determination, and advances toward perfecting his or her character."

— Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon

### **God Knows It Takes Time**

In a recent speech, [Mother Moon](#), co-founder of Unificationism, explained that God intended for people to grow naturally in their ability to follow their Original Mind. "A newborn baby cannot carry out the work of God's providence. Heaven waits until the baby grows up, is able to judge things for him- or herself, understands God's will, makes his or her determination, and advances toward perfecting his or her character." That means that instead of expecting ourselves to be perfect at dealing with hardship and automatically following

our Original Mind, we should have the courage and grit to train ourselves to tap into it a little more every day.

## Coworkers are a Training Ground

The most challenging part of any workplace will often be those pesky interpersonal relationships. When diverse people come together to work, conflict, misunderstanding, and personal differences can make things much harder than the job itself would indicate. Once again, a common temptation for many of us is to resort to complaint and negativity, or else treat the relationship with indifference or contempt. In our goal of always following our Original Mind the challenge then is to face these difficult relationships with an attitude of kindness and love.

**Again, hardship can be our friend.**

When we work to overcome our difficulties with even the most challenging co-workers, the resulting transformation within the relationship can be incredibly rewarding. Maybe you'll resolve your conflict in a way you never thought feasible. Maybe you'll [turn a rivalry into a close friendship](#). Or maybe you'll simply strengthen your patience. Any outcome will surely be better than choosing the path of negativity, resentment, and unhappiness.

Whether it's a stressful project, an uncooperative coworker, or just a bad day at work, we will always be faced with hardship within our workplaces, and ultimately throughout our lives. The key is to remember that each one of those challenges can be taken as a miserable burden or as a wonderful opportunity to put our Original Mind in the driver's seat and grow in our capacity for goodness.



Discover the untold story of Hak Ja Han Moon, the North Korean village girl who is now known to millions as the Mother of Peace.

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WHO IS THE  
MOTHER OF  
PEACE?

## DR. HAK JA HAN MOON

Over her 50 years of public ministry, the Mother of Peace, affectionately known as Mother Moon, has dedicated her life to the realization of peace. Acting in the role of humanity's parents, she and her husband created [non-profit organizations](#).



businesses, conferences and awards spanning every facet of society and culture to support resolving historical wounds and finding solutions to the world's many problems. At the root of all their initiatives is a path to strengthen families and prevent the breakdown of society through the Marriage Blessing movement. As the only female religious leader operating on such a global level, her powerful message has inspired millions to transcend national, racial and ideological boundaries.



HER WORK FOR PEACE

See her extensive peace-building legacy



WHAT SHE STANDS FOR

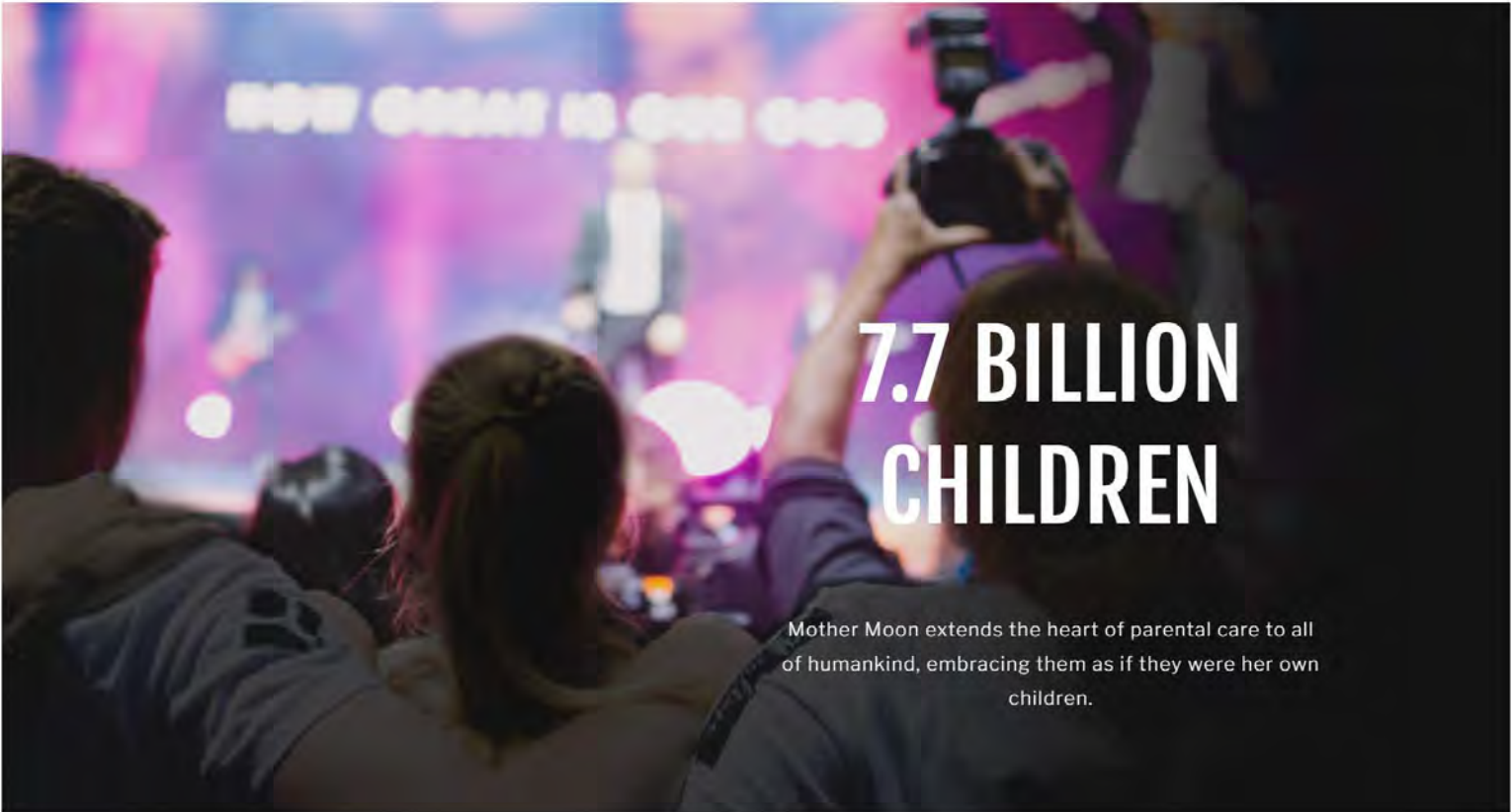
Learn about the values that drive her work



WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

Read first-hand testimonies from world leaders

THE MOTHER OF PEACE IS  
HEALING THE HUMAN CONDITION





# FAMILY AS THE FOUNDATION

The world's great faiths unanimously affirm the sanctity of marriage. The breakdown of love in the family is the root of all human problems. The Marriage Blessing is an inter-religious affirmation of the universal importance of marriage and family, creating God-centered families united as one family under God.



# PEACE STARTS WITH ME

Thousands across the globe have come together through the Peace Starts With Me experience. Mother Moon is challenging us to become peacemakers, starting with ourselves. Politicians come and go, but we are the people who must take responsibility to bring about change rather than relying on others to do it for us.



**“Today we stand at the gateway of a new historic millennium for the sake of world peace and a hope-filled future, which we must bring to fruition without delay.”**

— Mother Moon, February 2019

## How Nature Is Closer to God Than We Are (And How to Change That)



“Let the rain kiss you. Let the rain beat upon your head with silver liquid drops. Let the rain sing you a lullaby.”

– Langston Hughes

Don't we often feel nature to be mystifyingly comforting? A reassuringly unchanging yet refreshingly ever-changing aspect of this world? Sometimes it might even feel like nature is the closest to God we can get. Why might that be?

As Unificationists, we often explore the [divinity within ourselves](#) – but what about the rest of God's creation? When Adam and Eve fell away from God, the rest of humanity became “deceitful above all things” (Jeremiah 17:9). The [Divine Principle](#) explains how they lost their position beside God, and only through created things could they come back to God.

That probably would explain the biblical offerings humans have made throughout history, but for most of us who don't regularly make ceremonial offerings of lambs and doves, perhaps we can find nature's divinity in a different way: as our natural teacher that can help bring us back in touch with God.

### Lesson 1: Be YOU-nique

Father Moon taught that, as a result of the Human Fall, we amazing human beings began to see ourselves as worthless – constantly comparing ourselves



or being jealous of each other's physical qualities or talents.

But what about nature? Flowers don't compare themselves with each other. If they were human, they'd appreciate their unique beauty. Wouldn't this way of life be way more uplifting?

Perhaps such a love and appreciation for each unique thing in the world is an aspect of God that we lost long ago – and it's something we can relearn from nature.

## **Lesson 2: We Are One**


We need to remind ourselves what nature is to us – that it's not just a pretty backdrop for a profile pic, but an integral participant in our lives. After all, it's what sustains us. Father Moon spoke of this interconnected existence:

"Spending time in the forest cleanses the mind. The sound of leaves rustling in the wind, the sound of the wind blowing through the reeds, the sound of frogs croaking in the ponds: All you can hear are the sounds of nature; no extraneous thoughts enter the mind. If you empty your mind and receive nature into your entire being, there is no separation between you and nature. Nature comes into you, and you become completely one with nature. In the moment that the boundary between you and nature disappears, you feel a profound sense of joy. Then nature becomes you, and you become nature." ([As a Peace-Loving Global Citizen](#), 22-23)

How can we grow our sense of respect, awe, wonder, care, and gratitude for nature? It's pretty simple: be in it. Try just lying in the grass, hugging the earth, staring into swishing leaves, and feeling one with your natural surroundings.

## **Lesson 3: It Takes Care of Us – Let's Take Care of It**

By taking care of our environment – cleaning our home or trimming the hedge – we become co-owners with our Heavenly Parent. That feeling of ownership eventually can expand from our personal sphere to include a concern for places like the local park. If there were trash in the trees or even a dying plant, our hearts would go out to these suffering shrubs and we'd want to help them. There are countless other [ways to help](#). We can liberate nature by taking care of it, and just maybe come in touch with God's deepest love for His creation – and for us.

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